

VPS QUESTIONNAIRE RESULTS FOR MARCH 14 FOCUS GROUP

Input from Former and Present Patients on Inpatient Units Regarding replacing existing services of Brooks 1 and 2 at VSH

This is a compiled report given by a survey sent out and responses from inpatient report cards received from VSH and Windham Center in the past 2 years. There were 28 returned surveys, 19 VSH report cards and 30 Windham Center cards. There are no duplications. I used the questions and comments on the report cards that pertained specifically to this survey.

Breakdown by Mental Health Regions:

**Addison County: 10 surveys, 2 VSH report cards,
Bennington County: no recent, 2 VSH, 7 Windham Center,
Chittenden County: 5 VSH surveys,
Northeast Kingdom: 2 VSH Surveys, 3 Windham Surveys,
Northwestern: 2 recent, 1 VSH,
Lamoille: 2 VSH, 1 Windham,
Orange County: 4 recent, 2 VSH,
Rutland County: 6 recent,
Washington County: 4 recent, 3 VSH, 3 Windham Center,
Southeastern: 2 recent, 10 Windham.**

Could you help me circulate and invite people to give input and please attend the meeting with the architects on March 14th. Information at bottom of this survey. Thanks. Linda

Questionnaire for What Would Make an "Ideal" Specialty Psychiatric Hospital (Replacing the services now on Brooks 1 and 2)

These ideas will be joined into a summary reply to the architects who are working on the program parts.

1. Please share your thoughts on the kind of changes that can happen to the program and services because of moving to a new facility:

- a more homey environment, 11
- recovery groups, 6
- DBT Groups, 2
- Music groups, 12
- Learning Activities of Daily Living Skills,

- indoor swimming pool, 7
- clothing room,
- conflict resolution group, 6
- anger management, 11
- Art Expression, 3
- vocational training, 3
- GED, 15
- canteen area, 3
- hygiene classes, 7
- care specific to personal needs, diabetes, heart, fibromyalgia etc.

2. Out of this list, tell what you think are spaces that should be open to patients all the time, and which should be closed off some of the time. (You can share thoughts more than just yes/no, for example, why you think something should always be open.)

Kitchen:

- 5 - Ability to meet specific dietary requests.
- 17 - would like menus
- 15 - All time
- 8 - mealtimes only
- 20 - at specific scheduled times
- Some need to know they can eat whenever they are hungry.

Dining area:

- 30 - All the time
- 3 - closed for time to prepare and cleanup after meals.
- Could be used as a recreational area when not in meal use for games, etc.

Bedrooms:

- 15 - All the time
- 10 - only scheduled hours (so people won't isolate)
- 19 - single occupancy so won't disturb others
- Can be a space to relax or work on a project. Also area to spend time with guests.

Recreation space:

- 30 - Supervised,
- 20 - open all the time but can only attend when not scheduled elsewhere.
- 10 - Close at a certain hour in the evening but stay open later on weekend and holidays.
- Screened in porches, 1 for smokers, 1 nonsmoking

Particular kinds of recreation space:

- 17 - Art room,
- 3 - TV room,
- 11 - Music room,
- 31 - game room and puzzle area,
- 23 - quiet room,
- 15 - library and computer room,
- 31 - gym area for workouts with a variety of equipment

Community living training space:

- 11- Open at all times, under supervision times or at times requested by patient to use.
- Separate from Recreational room.

Vocational training:

- 11- Class times

3. List any sets of spaces that you think should be in the same area together. (Example: bathrooms in bedrooms, or in hallway; visiting area near living spaces or more separate.)

- bathrooms in bedrooms and also in hallways so one doesn't have to return to room to use.
- Showers separate from bathrooms and 1 available shower in gym area as well as a changing room.
- Visiting area separate so don't disturb patients who may not have visitors.
- Have area for pet visitation.

4. How much space should there be, and what kinds of space, for recreation?

- 11- Outdoors for games,
- 27 - smoking,

- 5 - place to sit and relax,
- 9 - garden area,
- 11 - picnic area

What about socializing, and where should that space be?

- Separate sitting area,
- day hall,
- TV room,
- art room

What kinds of vocational activities, and where on the unit should they be?

- 5 - Job skills,
- 9 - writing a resume,
- 3 - evaluation of vocational skills,
- 3 - ability to research what training people need for certain jobs and where one can get them,
- 21 - computer skills.

5. How should patients come into the hospital? How important is it to use the same admissions area as other Fletcher Allen patients, or to have a separate one?

- There should be a separate entrance.
- Whenever possible transportation should be done in least restrictive manner. No sheriffs.
- Less repetitive questions, shorter admission time

How important is it to use the same main emergency room (which has private psychiatric exam rooms) as other Fletcher Allen patients, or to have a separate one?

- 11 - Separate ones,
- 19 - One central

Where should after-admission exams be done: in one central area with an exam room, or on separate units?

- 15 - Separate units,
- 23 - One central

6. Should meals be in a common area, or should they be in smaller dining areas for each smaller unit? (Or something different?)

- 37- Common area so can socialize but a separate area for those who might be over stimulated or uncomfortable in a common area.

7. Should there be an office for Legal Aid or VP&A to use and work in somewhere on the unit, or should they keep a separate office and come meet patients at the hospital? If you think they should have office space at the hospital, what would the best place be?

- 31 - It should be on the unit in an area where there won't be interruptions.
- 15 - It would be nice to add a peer councilor too.

8. Should there be a visiting judge's court on or near the unit, like VSH has now, or should patients go to the court in Burlington?

- 19 - It would be a convenience on premises so there isn't a wait at a district court or having to be transported by police. Also people wouldn't need to go until their case is called.
- 5 - local court, if nearby

9. Should there be security personnel especially for the psychiatric unit, or should the regular Fletcher Allen security be used?

- 27 - It doesn't matter as long as they are trained in working with the population.
- 17 - regular,
- 11 - special, known by patients if they are regularly there.

10. What kind of space should there be for visitors? Where on the unit should it be located (next to what other rooms or sections of the unit?)

- 5 - Large room with lots of windows, cheery atmosphere, vending machines,
- 11 - on unit in a quiet area.
- 7 - bedrooms

Thanks for your help!

Please return to: Linda Corey, VPS, 1 Scale Ave. Suite 52, Rutland, Vt 05701 or attend the focus group in Burlington at the Dept of Health, Cherry St March 14th from 11:00-12:30 PM Call Linda at (800)564-2106 for further information.